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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00934 070634Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /059 W
----------071744Z 066499 /40
R 061406Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1330
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL GOTEBERG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FI
SUBJECT: PRES KEKKONEN URGES FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT BUT
PROGRESS TOWARD THAT END REMAINS SLOW

REF: HELSINKI 0866

1. PRES KEKKONEN SEPARATELY MET LEADERS OF 6 POLITICAL PARTIES -- I.E. 3 GOVT PARTIES, CONSERVS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP), COMMUNISTS -- MAY 2 TO URGE THEM TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LAND PACKAGE ISSUE. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY URGED CENTRIST PARTIES AND SDP TO MOVE FORWARD WITH TALKS TO FORM MAJORITY GOVT.

2. ON FOLLOWING DAY GENERAL AGREEMENT REACHED IN PARLIAMENT BETWEEN CENTRIST GROUPS AND SDP ON LAND PACKAGE ISSUE. HOWEVER, SEVERAL DETAILS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING COMPROMISE AGREEMENT REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT IN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE BEFORE BILL RETURNS TO PLENARY FOR RENEWED CONSIDERATION, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK.
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00934 070634Z

3. APPARENT AGREEMENT ON LAND PACKAGE QUESTION SEEMED TO CLEAR WAY FOR PROMPT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CENTER GROUPS AND SDP RE FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT. ALSO, PRES KEKKONEN HAD INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT HE WOUR LIKE TO HAVE A MAJORITY GOVT IN PLACE PRIOR TO HIS MOSCOW TRIP BEGINNING MAY 17.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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4. HOWEVER, SDP LEADERSHIP IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS FOR MAJORITY GOVT UNTIL LAND PACKAGE BILL ACTUALLY APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT IN FINAL FORM ACCEPTABLE TO SDP. SINCE FINAL PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON BILL APPAREMTNLY UNLIKELY BEFORE LATE IN WEEK OF MAY 9 AT EARLIEST, CHANCES OF FORMATION OF NEW GOVT BEFORE KEKKONEN'S MOSCOW TRIP NOT CONSIDERED HIGH. MOREOVER, WHILE HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR MAJORITY GOVT BEFORE MOSCOW TRIP, KEKKONEN IS NOT APPLY-ING PRESSURE ON POLITICAL LEADERS TO MOVE QUICKLY.

5. MEANWHILE, DESPITE ALL THE TALK ABOUT EARLY FORMA-TION OF MAJORITY GOVT, CENTER/RIGHT COOPERATION IN PARLIAMENT CONTINUED; ON MAY 5 GOVT DEFEATED AN SDP CENSURE MOTION AGAINST IT, WITH CONSERVATIVE AND CHRISTIAN LEAGUE VOTES PROVIDING GOVT PARTIES WITH NEEDED MAJORITY. HOUSTON

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Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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